LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. **(cancelled)**

2. **(currently amended)** The [[An]] assembly according to claim 17 [[1]], wherein :

said middle component is slideably received by said second base ~~bottom~~ component.

3. **(currently amended)** The [[An]] assembly according to claim 17 [[1]], wherein :

said concave portion has a constant radius.

4. **(withdrawn – currently amended)** The [[An]] assembly according to claim 17 [[1]], wherein :

said concave portion has a varying radius in at least one direction.

5. **(withdrawn – currently amended)** The [[An]] assembly according to claim 17 [[1]], wherein :

said concave portion has a varying radius in at least two directions.

6, 7. **(cancelled)**

8. **(currently amended)** The [[An]] assembly according to claim 17 [[1]], wherein :

said convex portion extends above a generally flat surface and is surrounded by a groove that extends below said generally flat surface.

9. **(currently amended)** The [[An]] assembly according to claim 17 [[1]], wherein:

the middle component ~~said intermediate portion~~ has an anterior edge and a posterior edge; and said convex portion has a center of radius that is closer to said anterior edge than it is to said posterior edge.

10. **(currently amended)** The [[An]] assembly according to claim 17 [[1]], wherein :

the middle ~~said intermediate~~ component has an anterior edge and a posterior edge, and the middle ~~said intermediate~~ component varies in height along a direction between the ~~said~~ anterior edge and the ~~said~~ posterior edge.

11-16. **(cancelled)**

17. **(new)** A prosthetic assembly for use between a pair of adjacent vertebrae, comprising

a first base component having a first side adapted for engaging the first of the adjacent vertebrae, and an opposing second side;

a second base component having a first side adapted for engaging the second of the adjacent vertebrae, and an opposing second side;

the first sides of each of the base components comprising at least two raised teeth and at least one inverted frustocone, as the vertebra-engaging adaptation; and

a middle component having a first side with a convex portion thereon adapted to engage the concave portion, and an opposing second side;

wherein the second side of the second base component is adapted to removably receive the second side of the middle component.

18. (new) The prosthetic assembly of claim 17, wherein:

the raised teeth are positioned near a periphery of the first side of the base component and the at least one inverted frustocone is positioned in a central area thereof.

19. (new) The prosthetic assembly of claim 18, wherein:

there are at least two inverted frustocones, arranged concentrically.